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tle man whose careful handling of the patient received the same pitiful brow-beaten look of thanks. "Oh you are so good to me," he often said. One day he asked for a priest and he seemed to find comfort in the visits of this new friend.

He did not recover, he did not live to be led to the electric chair, but during the last days of his life and suffering the hardened expression disappeared and when he went to face his Maker he was far more ready than he would have been had he been shot dead, for the contact with the kindly Christian surgeon and the gentle nurses had touched him deeply. During those days in bed and through the long night hours he was not plotting against the laws of God and man but was meditating and regretting, wondering how he had missed so much of the kindness of the world.

AN EXPERIMENT IN FUSION

A PLAN TO CORRELATE NURSING AND SOCIOLOGICAL EDUCATION

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New York City

Of the many avenues of endeavor outside of nursing proper into which nurses have made their way, none has exceeded in interest and importance that of social service. It was a foregone conclusion that nurses would engage in this work. The opportunity sought the woman, importuned her indeed, for she came to it equipped with the very qualities and training which made her an invaluable ally.

The social service worker of today can be by no means the vaguely good-intentioned sentimentalist of a less exacting age. She must show cause for the faith that is in her, be something of a sanitarian and economist, more of a teacher, have a lively sympathy with under dogs in general, and since illness is a more or less constant factor in most cases of economic distress, she must know something at first hand of disease and of modern methods of combating it.

It will be seen that the newly graduated nurse by no means measures up to this standard and is not necessarily equipped to assume the responsibilities which devolve upon her as a social service worker. In addition to her hospital training, she is in need of thorough grounding in sociological principles and in the many and varied phases of organized philanthropy. On the other hand it may be urged with some show of reason that her hospital training has given her mental, moral and physical preparation for medical social service, which far outweighs

in practical value that of the worker who has never handled sick people in her own proper person. Ambroise Paré once said succinctly, "I learned to treat gunshot wounds, *not out of books*," meaning thereby, not that he undervalued academic instruction, but that mere book learning availed little, unless modified in the crucible of experience.

The difficulty in the past has been to obtain the proper blend of academic and clinical instruction for women desiring to prepare themselves adequately for this work. Up till the present, it has been necessary to complete a three years' nursing course, with the addition of a course in one of the social service schools of varying duration, but usually of about two years. Five years added to the necessary high school and collegiate courses is more time than women of average means can afford to devote to preparation for their life work. Instructors in schools for social service have, naturally, been anxious to obtain actual clinical experience for their students and have realized that the wards of large hospitals offered a vantage ground for such study. But until the present there has been no definite attempt made by the training schools for nurses to offer facilities in this direction. With a view to overcoming this difficulty, it was suggested by Miss Noyes, Superintendent of Training Schools in Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, in conference with the authorities of the New York School of Philanthropy, that a combined course be devised which would embrace in one curriculum the various branches of study and clinical experience necessary for a complete preparation for medical social service.

The main features of this plan are briefly, as follows: the option of one of two courses is offered the student, one of three years leading to the diploma of both schools, and a shorter course of two years, which will not entitle the student to the full diploma of either school, but which will prepare her specifically for certain phases of social service where familiarity with nursing procedures is indispensable.

The first mentioned or longer course includes two years' actual service in the wards of Bellevue Hospital, its students taking the full nursing curriculum, re-arranged somewhat to meet their special needs. This service, augmented by an additional year's work at the School of Philanthropy, will be accepted by Bellevue Hospital as the equivalent of the full nursing course of two years and nine months, and students completing it will be eligible for registration by the State Board of Regents. The School of Philanthropy, on its part, waives one year of its usual two-year course, and considering the two years spent at Bellevue as the equivalent, grants its full diploma.

The shorter course necessitates one year's actual work at Bellevue, including the probationer's preliminary course and a specially arranged

plan of study embracing first and second year subjects. The second year is spent at the School of Philanthropy.

Provision has also been made by the School of Philanthropy for graduate nurses desiring to qualify as fully-trained social workers. Women of education who have completed training in a recognized hospital, and who are otherwise properly qualified, will be permitted to take a one year's course leading to a certificate or a two years' course leading to a full diploma. Under certain conditions it might be possible for students to arrange to take their second year work while holding salaried social service positions, at the same time pursuing their theoretical study at an hour not conflicting with their work. It must, however, be duly emphasized that only those women who possess the high standard of preliminary education required by the School of Philanthropy, will be eligible for either of these courses.

In reviewing the outstanding features of this plan which makes provision for a system of professional education not attempted heretofore, it would seem that the three years' combined course is specially attractive. Students choosing it may equip themselves at one and the same time for two separate and distinct careers, meanwhile enjoying the double privilege of institutional and academic experience and at the close of their three years' course may make two diplomas grow where but one grew before.

Bellevue Hospital lends itself particularly well to the working out of this comprehensive plan. The necessary plant and clinical material are ready to hand, proper classroom and laboratory facilities already exist, and students during their period of service in Bellevue will share the pleasant life of the Residence and will be subject to the same general authority as the other pupil nurses. They will be kept in touch with the sociological aspect of their work by means of lectures arranged by the School of Philanthropy and will have the invaluable opportunity of observing at first hand the methods in vogue in that wonderful human laboratory, the Bellevue Social Service Department, under the direct supervision of Miss Wadley.

The whole plan seems so simple and effective, at the first glance, that one wonders no one ever thought of it before. It is not, however, so simple as it appears on the surface, but signifies a new departure in nursing education, which bids fair to be far reaching in its effects. Certain disadvantages may be urged against it, notably, that there is no provision made to prevent graduates of the shorter course, although ineligible for registration, from styling themselves nurses and practising as such. The gradual stiffening of the Nurse Practice Act will, doubtless, tend to remedy this defect and, furthermore, women of the high

grade of preliminary education imposed by the School of Philanthropy, would be extremely unlikely to have any object in pursuing any such dubious course. This danger, even if it exists, does not seem so much to be feared as the threatened influx of social workers, without adequate clinical instruction in the many-sided manifestations of disease or proper experience in modern nursing methods, into a field where such knowledge is absolutely indispensable.

It does not seem to the unprejudiced observer that it is possible to completely dissociate problems of poverty from problems of disease. Whether dependence causes disease or disease dependency is a question to be argued by casuists. That they co-exist and are inextricable in the present state of the social body, is sufficient for the present purpose, which is to show that trained women in the fullest sense of the word are needed in the task of amelioration.

It has already been emphasized that an ordinary training school course, without proper sociological instruction, is not sufficient preparation for medical social service work, and most emphatically must it be asserted that some practical clinical knowledge of disease and of modern methods of nursing is an essential element in the education of a social service worker. A mere course of lectures, however illuminating, is not sufficient preparation for a woman who must, in the course of her day's work, meet and solve problems of a purely nursing character and to allow the social worker to ignore these problems is to seriously impair and limit her usefulness, on the other hand, to encourage her to attempt their solution without adequate professional training is to court disaster and put a premium on quackery. No lecturer, charm he never so wisely, can hope to communicate by word of mouth alone that knowledge which comes only by constant contact with illness. The recognition of symptoms and the swift and accurate correlation of them, the appropriate action in emergency, come not by casual theorizing nor by instinct, but by actual clinical experience iterated and re-iterated until hand, eye, and brain recognize and respond to the clinical picture presented. Neither is the disciplinary aspect of hospital training to be overlooked, that judicious pruning of the young emotions without unduly blunting the sympathies, that inculcation of "God's own common sense, which is more than knowledge," these alone foster the growth of the old fashioned virtues of self control and resourcefulness, without which the social worker is but a broken reed. Nothing can compensate for the disciplined routine of the wards and that resultant strengthening of the general morale of the individual which comes only from the habitual performance of difficult and often irksome tasks, the richest gift hospital training gives its students.

That the authorities of a training school of recognized standing have had the courage and initiative to make this difficult experiment is a matter of congratulation, not only to the students of medical social service, but also to the training school itself, which cannot fail to be the richer for the presence within it of a group of women so desirable in every respect. As marking the further development of a broader educational ideal of nursing as distinguished from the narrower military concepts of former years, the present experiment is highly interesting and it seems to be entirely in keeping with the honorable traditions of Bellevue that this historic training school should be the chosen field of such an endeavor.

SECTIONAL CONFERENCES ON TUBERCULOSIS

Four Sectional Conferences on tuberculosis will be held in various parts of the country during the months of October and November under the direction of The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, according to an announcement from the headquarters of that organization. They will be held in St. Louis, Mo., on October 6, 7, and 8; in Philadelphia, Pa., on October 16; in Bangor, Me., on October 22; and in Atlanta, Ga., during the last week in November. Prominent anti-tuberculosis workers from all parts of the country will address the various conferences. Among the principal subjects to be discussed at all the conferences are The Red Cross Seal campaign; the advantages of local hospitals for the care of consumptives; the home treatment of the tuberculous; and legislative problems.